

**TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - SATURDAY MORNING
March 20, 2010**

PRESENT FOR THE BRISTOL TOWN COUNCIL: Marshall, Cordeiro, Parella, Barboza, and Herreshoff

ABSENT:

PRESENT FOR THE WARREN TOWN COUNCIL: David Frerichs, Council President, Christopher Stanley, Catherine Tattrie, Joseph DePasquale, Frank Alfano

ABSENT:

PRESENT FOR THE BARRINGTON TOWN COUNCIL: June Sager Speakman, Council President, James Schwartz, Kate G. Weymouth

ABSENT: Jeffrey S. Brenner, and John T. Lazzaro

ALSO PRESENT: Diane C. Mederos, Town Administrator
Sen. David Bates, District 32
Sen. Charles J. Levesque, District 11
Rep. Jan P. Malik, District 67
Rep. Joy Hearn, District 66
Rep. Raymond Gallison, District 69
C. Richard Paduch, Warren Town Manager
Peter A. DeAngelis, Jr., Barrington Town Manager
Melinda Theis, Director of Administration and Finance, Bristol Warren Regional Schools
Paul Silva, Chairman, Bristol Warren Regional School Committee

ABSENT: Rep. Felag, and Rep. Gablinske

Document Received:

- Jeff and Janice Black - correspondence re draft RFP for BCWA

The Council met in special session on Saturday morning, March 20, 2010 in the Town Hall Council Chambers beginning at 9:05 o'clock AM, Council Chairman Marshall presiding:

Chairman Marshall asked that all present stand for the pledge of allegiance. He welcomed all in attendance and mentioned that this annual meeting is an opportunity to speak about common issues and concerns and ways to move forward as a whole. He also noted that this is a chance to present legislative ideas to our Senators and Representatives for review and also to present to the general assembly.

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - SATURDAY MORNING
March 20, 2010

Chairman Marshall noted that the matter on today's agenda to review a draft request for proposals (RFP) for the efficiency and operations audit of the Bristol County Water Authority would have to be continued. He further noted that information brought forward by citizens will be reviewed and incorporated in discussions with the auditing firm, Town Solicitors, and three Council Chairs on March 22, 2010 to draft the RFP.

Chairman Marshall asked that all in attendance introduce themselves at this time. It was noted for the record that Senator Felag would not be in attendance this morning as he underwent surgery yesterday and Representative Gablinske was working but would present late if time allowed.

Chairman Marshall noted that items on today's agenda would not be acted on at this point but taken into consideration and brought back to the each individual Council to decide a course of action.

1. Julie A. Coelho, Warren Town Clerk re resolution supporting House Bill 7023, An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations - Temporary Disability Insurance Benefits (legislation attached)

Councilman Alfano stated that the Warren Town Council unanimously passed support of the proposed legislation this year and that last year the same legislation, under a different House number, came out of Committee, and unanimously passed by the House. Councilman Alfano noted that this was very encouraging as this was the furthest this bill has gone to date.

Councilman Alfano explained that the proposed legislation concerned the fact that police and fire personnel in the State of Rhode Island have the ability to receive a full salary from the city or town in which they work and temporary disability insurance benefits (TDI) while out of work due to the result of being injured in the line of duty (IOD).

Councilman Alfano noted that with the current law in effect of being able to collect both TDI and an IOD salary police officers/firemen are allowed to stay out of work and collect that extra salary tax free and there is no incentive to return to work. He further noted that prior to being able to collect both TDI and IOD pay, police officers suffered the loss of overtime compensation and would return to work earlier.

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - SATURDAY MORNING
March 20, 2010

Councilman Alfano mentioned that Warren has had up to eleven policemen out of work, seven of which were injured on duty, at one time and with a police force of twenty-one to twenty-two this is a problem. He noted that if the State would allow the proposed legislation to pass police officers/firemen would collect IOD salary only and it would save the towns a considerable amount of money.

Councilman Alfano noted that the estimated cost to the Town of Warren was \$4 million over the last ten years. He further noted that when a police officer is out of work that officer is replaced by another officer who receives time and a half.

Rep. Malik noted that it is the Senate that has a hard time passing these bills with Sen. Levesque stating that it is not the police union that he does not want to go against but if a police officer is wounded in the line of duty, he does not wish to deny that officer the benefits due him.

Sen. Levesque suggested that the no incentive to go back to work verbiage be removed as most of the police officers he knows are eager to return to work.

Sen. Levesque explained that TDI is an insurance policy that is paid into and if you are temporarily injured, you are paid back. He further explained that the IOD compensation is separate, in recognition of the dangers and risks that police officers encounter.

Sen. Levesque noted that he will review the proposed legislation with Sen. Bates stating that to his knowledge there has been no bill put before the Senate.

Sen. Bates further stated that proposed bills do not automatically pass from the House to the Senate and this proposed legislation should be submitted to the Senate.

Council President Frerichs noted that no one wants to deny police officers any benefits.

Councilman Herreshoff mentioned that he believes that the purpose of TDI is to provide for people who are injured and out of work but should not provide an incentive for double pay.

Rep. Malik suggested that the TDI laws need to be amended instead of amending the IOD laws with Councilwoman Tattrie agreeing that TDI laws do need to be looked at as these are

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - SATURDAY MORNING
March 20, 2010

meant to be temporary until either workers compensation or IOD insurance takes effect.

Sen. Bates stated that there is a bill before the House to have police officers qualify for workers compensation, which police officers receive 100% of their pay but do lose a lot of money in overtime.

Councilman Alfano noted that he has respect for firefighters and policemen.

Chairman Marshall noted that this sheds light on the fact that proposed legislation should be presented to both a Representative and Senator to be presented to both Houses.

Chairman Marshall suggested that this matter should be brought before the individual Councils to decide how to move forward.

Rep. Malik suggested that the individual towns should assess as to whether this is an issue in their town before submitting legislation with Town Administrator Mederos stating this is not an issue in Bristol. Town Manager DeAngelis stated that short-term, Barrington does not have an issue but the potential is there.

Chairman Marshall requested the backup documentation and/or statewide analysis that caused the Representatives to vote unanimously in favor of this legislation with Rep. Gallison agreeing to do so.

Jack K. Baillarger of Bristol stated that taxpayers do not get the benefit of collecting both insurances. He further stated that taxpayers do not get full pay so the fact that police and fire personnel do is an extra benefit.

Sen. Levesque stated that he will take all arguments into consideration but is of the opinion that a firefighter or police officer who is injured in the line of duty deserves to be compensated.

Rep. Malik asked Town Manager DeAngelis if the firefighters have a similar injured in the line of duty insurance with Town manager DeAngelis noting that Barrington does not pay into TDI so this issue does not apply to Barrington.

Gary Morse of Barrington stated that he studies these issues and that the Department of Labor keeps detailed statistics on the

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - SATURDAY MORNING
March 20, 2010

degree of danger in jobs. He noted that although he does respect what the police and firemen do, they are not listed as one of the top ten most dangerous jobs.

Councilwoman Parella noted that this bill is about the taxpayers as it would save money in the budget which affects the tax rate.

2. Review draft RFP re efficiency and operations audit of the Bristol County Water Authority, (continued from February 25, 2010 Tri-Town meeting)

Council Chairman Marshall reiterated that the draft RFP is not available to review at this time. He noted that Town Solicitor Ursillo who represents Barrington and Bristol, Warren Town Solicitor DeSisto, and Champi Associates who are the current auditors for Bristol have agreed to assist in drafting a RFP, pro bono. He further noted that when complete the draft RFP will be brought back to the three Town Councils for review and comment.

Chairman Marshall requested that any ideas individual citizens would like to be considered during the discussion on review of the draft RFP be submitted to the individual Council Chairs.

Councilwoman Parella stated that she is of the opinion that a similar report of the Town Hall was done during Councilman Herreshoff's administration and that said report may be of interest with Councilman Herreshoff noting that it was a good exercise not only to find things out but to make employees aware that they should be considering those factors.

Chairman Marshall stated that he would like to investigate other water authority models because the current model might not be the right fit for the three Towns any longer and that a private enterprise might be better.

Rep. Gallison asked if the draft RFP would include having the Bristol County Water Authority (BCWA) report to a higher authority such as the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). He noted that each community has three members appointed to the BCWA and those members only react and act to what is presented to them by the BCWA administration and the members may not have the necessary expertise.

Rep. Malik stated, as a taxpayer in Warren, that he is of the opinion that the stipend which was established years ago is unfair and the matter regarding how to divide the money fairly

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - SATURDAY MORNING
March 20, 2010

should be addressed by the three Councils. He noted that Warren has the biggest portion of land owned by the BCWA but receives the least amount of money as the stipend is for water usage.

Councilman DePasquale noted that he addressed said matter last year and was informed that the contract does not expire until 2018.

Mr. Morse asked if the issue of pension allocation was going to be addressed by Dean Hoff (CPA) and if there has been any feedback relative to benefits obligations with Town Manager DeAngelis noting that Dean Hoff has been asked to review said matter.

Mr. Morse noted that his work has showed that 43-47% of the entire pension fund can be drained within the next three years and this is a very imminent problem that requires an immediate solution.

Councilman DePasquale stated that he recently looked up the definition for pension spiking after reading an article that was e-mailed to him from the Wall Street Journal. He noted that the definition of pension spiking in Wikipedia is that the last three years of employment can be inflated by whatever means possible, overtime, promotion, etc. He further noted this is a verbatim attachment to "what we are living in now." He stated that Wikipedia noted that the said practice is a clear conflict of interest and yet because it is a system that is established it is not illegal. He further stated that he has a great deal of respect for Andrew Cuomo, Attorney General for State of New York, who is dealing with this issue head on.

Rep. Malik stated that the State pension system does not allow pensions to be inflated by overtime.

Councilwoman Tattrie noted that she is not of the opinion that this would apply as there is no overtime benefit for salary positions.

Councilman DePasquale noted that he is of the opinion that there should be a separate benefits package for management when negotiating contracts.

Councilwoman Parella noted that increasing the last three to five years of salary for a higher pension rate is not a new practice.

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - SATURDAY MORNING
March 20, 2010

Rep. Malik noted that all three Councils appoint three members each to the BCWA Board of Directors and suggested that if the appointed members are not doing their job of protecting the taxpayers then perhaps they should be replaced. He further suggested that perhaps all three communities should establish a finance committee to review the contracts with the Councils approving same.

Councilman Herreshoff noted that he is of the opinion that the Council appoints "good people" but when they appear before the Council it appears as though they defend the BCWA and are antagonistic of the Council.

Councilman DePasquale noted that he is proud to have William Gosselin as a representative. He further noted that he is of the opinion that Mr. Gosselin realized that he had to learn the process that he was imbedded in and that it took courage for him to step forward and not be the popular person.

Rep. Malik asked how often correspondence is sent to the Councils reporting on the BCWA.

Chairman Marshall noted that the appointee structure is something that should be looked at in the report.

Councilwoman Tattrie noted that Warren found out about BCWA's issues only when an appointed board member was replaced. She further noted that the individual did not come forward to the Council with these issues until after he was replaced.

Rep. Malik suggested that perhaps legislation should be amended to require everything has to be approved by the Councils.

Mr. Baillarger on suggested eliminating the BCWA which would do away with the board and overhead. He noted that 80% of water is currently being purchased from Providence and only 20% is supplied by BCWA.

Councilwoman Parella noted that during previous discussions regarding issues with the BCWA, the downside of going before the PUC was the expense but this may be worth revisiting.

Mr. Baillarger on noted that putting the BCWA under the PUC would require a change in State law. He recommended taking the BCWA out of the three Towns and getting water from Providence which would result in an extension of thousands upon thousands of more ratepayers. He noted that he is of the opinion that it would be

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - SATURDAY MORNING
March 20, 2010

cheaper if the State could purchase BCWA as then it would come under the PUC.

Council President Speakman asked what would happen if 100% of water was depended on from Providence and something happened to the pipeline with Mr. Baillarger on explaining that there is an emergency backup in East Providence.

It was noted that if the BCWA becomes insolvent, all three Towns would be responsible for the debt.

Councilman DePasquale noted that the public's points are appreciated but the Councils are together today to consider matters to bring to the draft RFP.

Council President Speakman noted that the administrative structure will be a part of the scope of work in the RFP.

Council President Frerichs stated that he would advise investigating whether the Providence Water Authority is having financial problems.

Councilman Alfano noted that when the efficiency study begins, many of these issues can be addressed at that time. He stated that during previous discussions it was noted that conservation will increase costs. He asked "in which business do you have a bad temporary situation; bad stock market, and bad summer with too much rain and it provides a permanent 9% increase?"

Council President Speakman noted that the study will need to look at short-term pricing practices and long-term financial stability.

Councilwoman Parella noted that this study should consider both the efficiency and management aspects of the BCWA.

Jeff Black of Barrington distributed correspondence noting items he would like to be considered when drafting the RFP at the upcoming meeting.

Mr. Black referred to the Phase II report discussed at the February 25 Tri-Town Meeting. He noted that Mr. DeLise said that he would submit said report to the Councils by March 15 with Council President Speakman stating that she received a follow-up letter indicating it would be issued around April 1.

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - SATURDAY MORNING
March 20, 2010

Mr. Black read his correspondence aloud. Discussion ensued and it was noted that said correspondence would be taken into consideration.

3. Discussion re standard road repair specifications

Chairman Marshall stated that this matter was forwarded to the Bristol Council for consideration by the Warren Council.

Council President Frerichs explained that this is a plan that has been instituted throughout much of the State. He stated that he is of the opinion that this ordinance is fair and not onerous.

It was noted that Warren Town Solicitor DeSisto spent a great deal of time revising this ordinance.

Councilwoman Tattrie explained that this is a town ordinance and does not require enabling legislation.

Chairman Marshall asked if Barrington received a copy of this ordinance with Council President Speakman replying it was received in their packet.

Councilwoman Tattrie explained that this ordinance was enacted by Warren due to issues that other towns were having with the utility companies concerning curb to curb paving. She further explained that Warren DPW Director John Massed worked with State employees and Solicitor DeSisto to draft this ordinance.

Councilwoman Tattrie noted that this is something that most utility companies will agree to and it gives the town a little more control.

Councilman Barboza stated that Bristol's Director of Public Works, Fred Serbst reviewed this ordinance and his recommendation was that Warren should review Bristol's policy as it is more comprehensive.

Chairman Marshall noted that the "big picture" was to try to consolidate ordinances so they are the same throughout the State.

Councilman Barboza requested that a copy of Bristol's policy be sent to Warren and Barrington with Councilman DePasquale suggesting that the three Town Managers/Administrator review this policy and schedule a meeting with the department of public

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - SATURDAY MORNING
March 20, 2010

works directors to draft a standard policy/ordinance that the three Councils may review and enact.

Rep. Malik noted that Warren has a problem with Verizon and Narragansett Electric leaving half poles attached to new poles for years. He inquired if Barrington or Bristol have the same issue. He further noted that there is currently legislation regarding this matter.

4. Discussion with Legislators re General Assembly legislation

Councilman Herreshoff stated that the most important issue right now is the threat of withdrawing the Bristol Warren Regional School's state aid with Rep. Gallison noting the education formula is the number one problem for Bristol and Warren.

Rep. Gallison stated that he would vote against the current plan as proposed. He noted that it would be a \$9.1 million loss to the Bristol Warren Regional School District (BWRSD).

Councilman Herreshoff noted that he is of the opinion that this action would be breaking a contract that was made at the time the Towns regionalized.

Councilman Barboza asked what the incentive would be for other communities to regionalize, considering this withdrawal of the regionalization "bonus."

Rep. Gallison explained that Commissioner Deborah Gist will be at Mt. Hope High School on March 25 to explain the current plan. He stated that there are a couple of other proposed bills. Rep. Gallison further reported that during discussions with Attorney General Lynch he learned there may be another plan coming forward from the Senate and House leadership.

Councilman Barboza agreed that a new State funding formula is long overdue but that there are some inequities in the proposed formula. He noted that speaking as Chairman of the Joint Finance Committee and looking at the BWRSD everything has done everything right; schools are high performing and commended, fiscally solid, and the district is on the move. He further noted that taking the proposed amount of money away from the BWRSD is unfair will cause an undue hardship.

Rep. Gallison stated that tax capacity is being examined and essentially towns not taxing the people in their communities fairly.

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - SATURDAY MORNING
March 20, 2010

Rep. Malik stated that Barrington is paying \$3,000 less per student than the BWRSD and Barrington has one of the best school systems in the state. He further noted that Bristol is paying \$15,600 per student and the average is \$13,600.

Rep Malik noted that West Warwick which has about the same student population as Bristol and Warren did not "take a hit" on the proposed funding and perhaps the legislators have to look at the number of free lunch programs, etc.

Rep. Gallison noted that BWRSD's debt service is involved in the high \$15,600 figure.

Councilman Barboza noted that he is not aware if Barrington has as many special needs students with Rep. Hearn noting that Barrington does have their share of special needs students.

Rep. Hearn noted, in defense of the plan which shows Barrington as receiving a significant increase that currently the State funds Barrington \$720 per student which is what has been paid for years. She further noted that Barrington taxpayers cannot continue to fund the entire school district with Councilman Barboza agreeing and reiterating that a funding formula is long overdue.

Councilman Barboza noted that he would be happy if the BWRSD was receiving the funds that Barrington is and those funds are justifiably due because of being short for so many years but he is also of the opinion that the State cannot take a district that is high performing and all of a sudden take \$9 million away.

Rep. Hearn noted that the BWRSD are to be commended for getting a school system up and running and in a good category but that in the regionalization package there was a \$10 million payout that had a beginning and end to it and through the legislators the BWRSD kept getting it reinstated.

Councilwoman Parella noted that she is of the opinion that it is the regional school districts' funds that are cut the most which is against what the Governor talks about. She further noted that in all fairness the 47% cut is a "big hit" for the BWRSD. She noted that it is uncertain whether or not the regional bonus was forever or if it was to decrease and level off to perhaps 2%.

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - SATURDAY MORNING
March 20, 2010

Councilwoman Parella stated that the reliance on property tax is not the way to run the government she is in favor of local income tax and noted that citizens cannot afford for their property taxes to increase to support the schools.

Councilman Barboza noted concern regarding the charge for charter schools and is of the opinion that the establishment of another charter school would result in more funds being taken away from the communities.

Sen. Levesque noted that he is not of the opinion that the funding formula is fair and that tax capacity is an issue. He further noted that Barrington did very well due to an increase in student population.

Sen. Levesque agreed with Councilwoman Parella in regards to property tax.

Sen. Bates stated that the funding formula has been worked on for twenty years.

Councilwoman Parella stated that NECAP results demonstrated that math figures in many of the charter schools were no better than that of urban public schools.

Sen. Bates stated that it looks as though legislation will pass to make excise tax equal but that the bad news is that it most likely won't be funded and municipalities will not receive state aid.

Councilwoman Tattrie noted that no matter what the formula is the BWRSD will lose funds.

Councilwoman Tattrie suggested that instead of one community looking at five different disabilities, individual schools in the local vicinity can focus on one disability with Sen. Levesque stating the East Bay Collaborative has been doing something similar.

Council President Speakman stated that she is in favor of the State legislators that represent the three communities to amend proposed plan so it does not hurt Bristol and Warren as much and still benefits Barrington with Rep. Gallison noting there are three other bills in the House currently.

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - SATURDAY MORNING
March 20, 2010

Councilman DePasquale asked if the cost to infrastructure was in the formula with Sen. Levesque answering he was not sure but agreed that it should be.

Chairman Marshall noted that the legislators should look at cities and towns and what they have for debt service and what they have done to protect the infrastructure of Rhode Island when reviewing funding formulas.

Rep. Hearn noted that Barrington's teacher contract has been toughly negotiated both on the school and town side with 20% co-pays and perhaps the contracts of the towns that are being hit hard with the proposed funding formula should be looked at.

Council President Frerichs noted that Bristol and Warren was encouraged to regionalize and update the schools which special funds were received to do so and now are BWRSD is going to be penalized.

Rep. Malik noted that Barrington's property taxes are double what Warren pays.

Sen. Bates suggested that these points be brought to Commissioner Gist's attention on Thursday, March 25 as this is her formula she can make the proposed changes.

Chairman Marshall asked if Barrington had any issues they would like to bring to the legislators attention with Council President Speakman noting that the three year statistical revaluation has been difficult.

Council President Speakman noted that four hundred and fifty people are suing Barrington as a result of the current revaluation which perhaps the concurrent "tanking" of the real estate market had an impact on. She suggested that perhaps a statewide methodology for the appraisal firms to follow would help.

Councilman Herreshoff noted that he does not agree that the statistical update is worthwhile and he would like to see it eliminated. He further noted that he would prefer to have the revaluation more frequently with Sen. Bates stating that having a revaluation every five years would be very expensive.

Sen. Bates noted that Peder Schaefer has left Municipal Affairs and Sen. Bates has a meeting scheduled with attorneys from the administration office as soon as an individual is appointed to

**TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - SATURDAY MORNING
March 20, 2010**

this position. He agreed to attempt to find a standard regulation for every municipality to perform the update.

Council President Speakman noted that cities and towns are required to implement this state mandate with very little guidance from the state.

Council President Frerichs asked if Barrington changed appraisal firms with Council President Speakman answering affirmatively.

Sen. Levesque noted that the valuations fit into the funding formula.

During discussions, it was noted that the state funded 80% of the statistical update cost.

Sen. Bates stated that if the towns want to perform statistical update every five years instead of every 3 years, they must submit a resolution to the legislators.

At this point in the meeting, Chairman Marshall noted that the matter of Verizon Fios was going to be considered.

6. *Warren Council President Frerichs re Verizon Fios

Chairman Marshall noted that Council President Frerichs brought the issue regarding Verizon Fios forward with Council President Frerichs explaining that he had different constituents ask why Warren doesn't have Verizon Fios.

Council President Frerichs noted that he spoke with a Verizon representative who stated that if all three towns collaborated and sent a letter in favor of having Verizon Fios' business, it would be looked upon more favorably and move forward sooner.

Councilman Barboza noted that he is aware of a law that prevents Verizon from operating in the three towns with Councilwoman Tattrie noting she believes that law was repealed when Cox came to the three towns.

Councilman DePasquale stated that Verizon is operating in the towns but Fios is a service provided through Verizon.

A further discussion ensued regarding this matter.

Council President Speakman noted that the Area 5 Citizens' Cable Advisory Committee is meeting on Tuesday, March 23 at 7:30 PM

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - SATURDAY MORNING
March 20, 2010

and inquired if any towns will send representatives with Council President Frerichs noting the he will e-mail Mr. Padwa.

Chairman Marshall informed all that Bristol is moving forward with an energy efficient animal shelter. He noted that the proposed animal shelter is unique and will have an educational, storage, and veterinarian capacity.

Chairman Marshall stated that the proposed animal shelter is only sized large enough to accommodate Bristol and Bristol is not asking to regionalize but rather establish a fee based service. He noted that this may save Barrington or Warren from building a redundant shelter.

Chairman Marshall stated that Barrington and Warren may want to audit how many animals they currently have and the cost is for animal control in each town.

Councilwoman Parella noted that at this point the shelter plans are not final and if Barrington and Warren were interested in contracting with Bristol now is the time as the capacity could be increased to accommodate for that with Chairman Marshall noting that time is of the essence as the design is currently as is but if a larger component of this building has to be built out to absorb an increase in the animal population it would need to be incorporated now.

Councilwoman Parella noted that this agreement would only be in regards to the shelter aspect and not picking up animals.

Chairman Marshall noted that this would be similar to what Potter League is doing for Portsmouth and Middletown. He further noted that a cost analysis could be performed for Barrington and Warren's consideration.

Councilman Barboza noted that he just spoke with an individual with knowledge regarding cable service in the State of Rhode Island.

Councilman Barboza stated that he was advised that Verizon must complete three stages prior to operating in the towns; a certificate of compliance which was completed with the Public Utilities Commission stating there were enough customers, a certificate to start construction, and, the final stage, the authority to operate.

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - SATURDAY MORNING
March 20, 2010

Chairman Marshall noted that Animal Control Officer Dyanne Gibree was in attendance and asked that perhaps she could put together a summary of the populations from the two different towns as well as fees and thoughts as to the size increase that would be necessary to accommodate the needs of Barrington and Warren.

Animal Control Officer Gibree noted that she does have some information from Warren but does not have any from Barrington.

Animal Control Officer Gibree stated that when the shelter was originally designed Bristol's impoundment figures over the course of a four year period were taken into consideration. She further stated that the architect worked with those figures and designed a shelter that would accommodate Bristol's animals not only now but for the next twenty years.

Animal Control Officer Gibree noted that she is not opposed to offering the shelter's services to the surrounding communities but is concerned that the needs of the Bristol animals, Town of Bristol, and the citizens' needs be met first and foremost. She further noted that she was of the opinion that once the shelter was constructed and Bristol's needs were met at that time if additional space was available an appropriate community would be approached and with paying close attention over the last few years Tiverton seems to be the best fit based on their impoundment numbers.

Animal Control Officer Gibree stated that since Heidi Garrity was hired as Warren's animal control officer animal control issues have been aggressively pursued with Warren's impoundment figures increasing to well over one hundred and forty.

Animal Control Officer Gibree noted that Warren has a huge stray cat problem that will take years to address.

Animal Control Officer Gibree stated that Tiverton does not address cat issues, they only impound dogs. She noted that the State law does not require towns to address cat issues. She further noted that the proposed shelter might be able to accommodate Tiverton considering their impoundment but until the building is actually up and running this would be difficult to determine.

Councilwoman Parella asked whether it would be conceivable to add additional pods at this point and time with Councilman

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - SATURDAY MORNING
March 20, 2010

Herreshoff noting that the needs of the building should be determined prior to construction.

Councilwoman Tattrie stated that she has been working with Animal Control Officer Garrity to establish a 501(c)(3) which would actually build the facility rather than put it before the taxpayers. She noted that 501(c)(3) is needed prior to writing grants.

It was noted that Bristol already has a 501(c)(3) which is Friends of the Animal Shelter.

Councilwoman Tattrie noted that she is in favor of Warren moving forward with their current plan.

Chairman Marshall thanked Barrington, Senators, and Representative for their attendance. At this point, Superintendent Theis and School Committee Chairman Silva joined the meeting.

5. Consideration of drafting an RFP re the study of Bristol Warren Regional School Committee

Chairman Marshall stated that review of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was discussed at the March 3 Council Meeting and continued to today's meeting for review.

Mr. Silva explained that he agreed with Councilman DePasquale that there needs to be a list of what should be changed although they may disagree on what should be on list.

Mr. Silva stated that this matter has not been discussed at the school committee. He further stated that the school committee currently has an issue before both councils and there is a task force that will address both councils regarding that particular issue but he does not wish to discuss that matter at this time.

Mr. Silva noted that he is of the opinion that the enabling legislation needs to be revamped and there needs to be a process to bring certain changes forward for discussion. He noted that those changes should come from a nonpolitically appointed group with Councilman Barboza agreeing and noting that if an impartial company could be retained to look at this, he would be in favor of it.

Councilman DePasquale stated that the transportation issue is not really separate with Mr. Silva reiterating that he would

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - SATURDAY MORNING
March 20, 2010

like to leave that request separate and have the task force answer any questions addressing said matter.

Mr. Silva noted that he is of the opinion that the Joint Finance Committee needs to be studied regarding whether members vote a certain way for the educational process that they believe in, or if they worry whether or not taxpayers will get upset; especially in an election year.

Councilwoman Parella stating she has a problem when school committees become totally focused on taxpayer issues and not about the kids.

A further discussion ensued regarding this matter.

Councilman Cordeiro stated that he wants to have a vote regarding any proposed changes to the enabling legislation with Councilman DePasquale noting that the review committee would report their information to the Councils.

Councilman Barboza asked Councilman DePasquale if he was aware of an entity that would do this with Mr. Silva noting he does not have a specific name but knows that there are groups that would look at the formation of a municipality or school district and make suggestions regarding what can and cannot be done.

Councilman Barboza asked who would pay for this service.

Town Manager Paduch stated that almost every major accounting company has a division that performs governmental analyses to whatever level you wish for it to be done.

Council President Frerichs noted that everyone wants the best possible education for the kids but there are financial limitations.

Superintendent Theis stated that at her immediate concerns are the financial issues being presented at the Joint Finance Committee meeting and proposed funding formula.

Councilman Barboza noted that if it is agreed upon to study this matter, nothing will transpire this year as this amendments to the enabling legislation require legislative approval.

Superintendent Theis stated she believes that the idea for this proposed study was the result of earlier discussions regarding the transportation of students.

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - SATURDAY MORNING
March 20, 2010

It was discussed that the transportation of students issue should be looked at in the near future to be considered in this legislative session and the entire enabling legislation perhaps reviewed long term.

Councilwoman Parella noted that any consideration of an addition/renovation to buildings is unrealistic with Councilman Barboza agreeing.

Councilman Barboza stated that this needs to move forward with an agreement on how the study will be paid for, that the results of this study are not binding, and that this study will be separate from the transportation issue with Councilman DePasquale agreeing.

Councilman DePasquale recommended referring this matter to the Town Managers and Council Chairs to discuss and bring forward at their next Council meeting.

Councilman Herreshoff asked if this would be a one-time analysis of how the schools are managed or a continuous year by year advisory group with Councilman DePasquale answering that perhaps this would operate as a "charter review commission" and every five years appointed members would have one year to review the enabling legislation and bring proposed changes to the Council.

Councilman Barboza stated that the study should be continued until the summer or fall and at this point and time the transportation issue should be addressed and as Superintendent This noted the upcoming Joint Finance Committee meeting and funding formula.

Councilman DePasquale recommended that information and data begin to be accumulated so at the next meeting this matter can be looked at constructively and decisions can be made on how to proceed.

Councilman Barboza reiterated that there must be a shared cost.

Councilman Herreshoff noted that he is of the opinion that next year there should be more than one Joint Finance Committee meeting with Councilman Barboza stating that scheduling two meetings this year was difficult.

Mr. Silva noted that the study should examine how often the enabling legislation should be reviewed.

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Councilman Barboza suggested that Mr. Silva should put this on School Committee's agenda to get their opinion.

Mr. Silva stated that the Task Force's conclusion was to forward the request for flexibility to transport students across town lines to accommodate space and need. He further stated that this requires a modification to the enabling legislation which requires a vote from the public and the request before the Councils is for support to ask permission to ask the voters.

Councilman Barboza noted that the Council will listen to the Task Force's presentation and the proposed study will be scheduled to move forward in a few months.

It was agreed that the Superintendent's Office , possibly a School Committee designee, and the two Town Managers will discuss how to move forward with the proposed study to be reviewed at later date.

There being no further business, upon a motion by Councilman Barboza, seconded by Councilman DePasquale and voted unanimously, Vice Chairman Cordeiro declared this meeting to be adjourned at 12:10 o'clock PM.

Jennifer Walsh, Deputy Town Clerk